

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An ID card-making apparatus for detecting a photograph portion as image data from an ID card application form in which ruled lines and characters are printed and a photograph of an applicant is attached to an attachment position, extracting a target image from the detected photograph portion, and making an ID card based on the target image, comprising:

image reading means for reading an image from an area of predetermined size, within which at least the photograph attached to the ID card application form is present;

an image processing section including (i) photograph position detection means for detecting a photograph portion from ~~image data obtained by the image reading means~~ image data obtained by the image reading means and including at least a photograph attached to the ID card application form, ruled lines and characters, and (ii) photographic image extraction means for extracting a photographic image from an area which is inside a region defined by a photograph edge and which excludes the photograph edge, said photograph edge being detected by comparing ~~vertical and horizontal components of the photograph portion detected by the photograph position detection means~~ vertical and horizontal components included in the photograph, ruled lines and characters of the photograph portion of the ID card application form and obtained by the image reading means with combinations of vertical and

horizontal components of predetermined photograph size and detecting vertical and horizontal components of the photograph attached to the ID card application form; and

ID card-making means for making an ID card on which the photographic image extracted by the photographic image extraction means of the image processing section is printed.

3. (Currently Amended) An ID card-making apparatus for detecting a photograph portion as image data from an ID card application form in which ruled lines and characters are printed and a photograph of an applicant is attached to an attachment position, extracting a target image from the detected photograph portion, and making an ID card based on the target image, comprising:

image reading means for reading an image from an area of predetermined size, within which at least the photograph attached to the ID card application form is present;

an image processing section including (i) photograph position detection means for detecting a photograph edge by comparing ~~vertical and horizontal components included in image data obtained by the image reading means~~ vertical and horizontal components of the photograph, ruled lines and characters of the photograph portion of the ID card application form and included in the image data obtained by the image reading means with combinations of vertical and horizontal components of predetermined photograph size and detecting vertical and horizontal components of the photograph attached to the ID card application form and (ii) photographic image extraction means for extracting a photographic image from an area which is inside a region defined by the photograph edge detected by the photograph position detection means and which excludes the photograph edge; and

ID card-making means for making an ID card on which the photographic image extracted by the photographic image extraction means of the image processing section is printed.

4. (Currently Amended) An ID card-making apparatus for detecting a photograph portion as image data from an ID card application form in which ruled lines and characters are printed and a photograph of an applicant is attached to an attachment position extracting a target image from the detected photograph portion, and making an ID card based on the target image, comprising:

image reading means for reading an image from an area of predetermined size within which at least the photograph attached to the ID card application form is present;

an image processing section including (i) photograph position detection means for detecting a photograph edge by comparing ~~vertical and horizontal components included in image data obtained by the image reading means~~ vertical and horizontal components of the photograph, ruled lines and characters of the photograph portion of the ID card application form and included in the image data obtained by the image reading means with combinations of vertical and horizontal components of predetermined photograph size and detecting vertical and horizontal components of the photograph attached to the ID card application form; (ii) photographic image extraction means for extracting a photographic image from an area which is inside a region defined by the photograph edge detected by the photograph position detection means and which excludes the photograph edge; (iii) figure image extraction means for extracting a figure portion from the photographic image extracted by the photographic image extracting means; (iv) background image storage means for storing background image data; (v) image synthesis means for producing a composite image

by synthesizing the background image data stored in the background image storage means with figure portion data extracted by the figure image extraction means; and

card-making means for making an ID card on which the composite image produced by the image synthesis means is printed.

5. (Original) An ID card-making apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said background image storage means includes a storage section for storing background image data into which forgery preventing data is inserted.

6. (Original) An ID card-making apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said background image storage means includes a storage section for storing at least one of:

background image data into which an ID code for forgery prevention is inserted; and
background image data into which a plurality of predetermined marks for forgery prevention are inserted.

7. (Previously Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An ID card-making method comprising:
an image reading step for reading an image from an area of predetermined size which includes at least a photograph of an applicant, the ID card application form being a form in which ruled lines and characters are printed and the photograph of the applicant is attached to a predetermined position;

a photograph position detection step for detecting a photograph edge by comparing ~~vertical and horizontal components included in image data obtained in the image reading step~~

vertical and horizontal components of the photograph, ruled lines and characters of the photograph portion of the ID card application form and included in the image data obtained in the image reading step with combinations of vertical and horizontal components of predetermined photograph size and detecting vertical and horizontal components of the photograph attached to the ID card application form;

a photographic image extraction step for extracting a photographic image from an area which is inside a region defined by the photograph edge detected in the photograph position detection step and which excludes the photograph edge; and

a card-making step for making an ID card on which the photographic image extracted in the photographic image extraction step is printed.

9. (Currently Amended) An ID card-making method comprising:

an image reading step for reading an image from an area of predetermined size which includes at least a photograph of an applicant, the ID card application form being a form in which ruled lines and characters are printed and the photograph of the applicant is attached to a predetermined position;

a photograph position detection step for detecting a photograph edge by comparing ~~vertical and horizontal components included in image data obtained in the image reading step~~ vertical and horizontal components of the photograph, ruled lines and characters of the photograph portion of the ID card application form and included in the image data obtained in the image reading step with combinations of vertical and horizontal components of predetermined photograph size and detecting vertical and horizontal components of the photograph attached to the ID card application form;

a photographic image extraction step for extracting a photographic image from an area which is inside a region defined by the photograph edge detected in the photograph position detection step and which excludes the photograph edge;

a figure image extraction step for extracting a figure portion from the photographic image extracted in the photographic image extracting step;

an image synthesis step for producing a composite image by synthesizing background image data stored beforehand with figure portion data extracted in the figure image extraction step; and

a card-making step for making an ID card on which the composite image produced in the image synthesis step is printed.

10. (Original) An ID card-making method according to claim 9, wherein said image synthesis step synthesizes the background image data, into which forgery prevention data is inserted, with the figure portion data extracted in the figure image extraction step.

11. (Previously Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An ID card comprising a photographic image attached thereto, said photographic image being made by

reading an image from an area of predetermined size which includes at least a photograph of an applicant, the ID card application form being a form in which ruled lines and characters are printed and the photograph of the applicant is attached to a predetermined position;

detecting a photograph edge by comparing ~~vertical and horizontal components~~
~~included in obtained image data~~ vertical and horizontal components of the photograph, ruled

lines and characters of the photograph portion of the ID card application form and included in the image data obtained in the image reading step with combinations of vertical and horizontal components of predetermined photograph size and detecting vertical and horizontal components of the photograph attached to the ID card application form; and
extracting a photographic image from an area which is inside a region defined by the detected photograph edge and which excludes the photograph edge; and using the extracted photograph.

13. (Currently Amended) An ID card comprising a composite image printed thereon, said composite image being made by reading an image from an area of predetermined size which includes at least a photograph of an applicant, the ID card application form being a form in which ruled lines and characters are printed and the photograph of the applicant is attached to a predetermined position;

detecting a photograph edge by comparing ~~vertical and horizontal components included in obtained image data~~ vertical and horizontal components of the photograph, ruled lines and characters of the photograph portion of the ID card application form and included in the image data obtained in the image reading step with combinations of vertical and horizontal components of predetermined photograph size and detecting vertical and horizontal components of the photograph attached to the ID card application form;

extracting a photographic image from an area which is inside a region defined by the detected photograph edge and which excludes the photograph edge;

extracting figure portion data from the extracted photographic image; and producing a composite image by synthesizing background image data stored beforehand with the extracted figure portion data.

14. (Original) An ID card according to claim 13, wherein said background image data includes forgery prevention data.